

### **P3. THE IMPORTANCE OF PANCYTOPENIA FOR THE EVOLUTION AND TREATMENT OF NON HODGKIN LYMPHOMA PATIENTS.**

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**Introduction.** For Non-Hodgkin lymphoma (LNH) patients, polychemotherapy can affect the bone marrow through the cytotoxic effects of the medication. In the medical research for the LNH evolution, regardless the histological appearance, the pancytopenia is correlated with an unfavorable evolution. The application of a more aggressive chemotherapy, although it may favorably influence the diminution of the tumor mass, adds more severity to the global evolution of the disease through the secondary effects including also the toxicity on the bone marrow and consequently the pancytopenia enhancement.

**Aim:** The study proposes the evaluation of the survival rate at patients with pancytopenia and its role as prognostic factor in the evolution and treatment of patients with LNH.

**Methods:** We conducted a retrospective analytical study on 151 patients between May 2008

and April 2013 with the diagnosis of Non Hodgkin lymphoma in the Department of Haematology, Timisoara. The main method used for diagnosis consisted of biopsy, followed by histopathological and immunohistochemistry examination of the sampled tissue. The disease stage was determined using the computer tomography (CT) and bone marrow biopsy (BOM). The polychemotherapy treatment and the number of cycles performed were established depending on the stage and histological grade of the disease. The patients' data regarding their medical history, as well as the laboratory tests were taken from the patient medical records.

**Results:** The average age of the investigated patients was 49.69 years old, the youngest being 18 years old, while the oldest were 89 years old, of whom 37.7% were female and 62.3% were male. The monitoring period from the time of the diagnosis was  $13.92 \pm 6.24$  months up to complete remission for 33.7% of the patients and partial remission for 45.7% of the patients. 17.2% of the patients showed progressive disease, 0.6% showed recurrence and 2.5% died. The values of hemoglobin, platelets, white blood cells and pancytopenia grade were monitored on the investigated patients. The survival curve was reviewed depending on the analyzed parameters, resulting an approximately 8 month survival at patients with severe pancytopenia.

**Conclusions.** The results of this study suggest that pancytopenia is associated to a low survival rate. The low values of the associated hemoglobin, white blood cells and platelets could be a significant prognosis element for the evolution of these patients.